Message Text

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62.

ACTION EB-11

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UNCLAS VIENNA 706

FAS/USDA FOR HUME; BERN FOR AGATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EAGR, QU

SUBJ: ENERGY: IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

REF: FASTO CIRC 296

TOFAS NO. 3. SUMMARY: GOA HAS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT SUFFICIENT FUEL SUPPLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PLANTING AND HARVESTING THIS YEAR. SITUATION OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY EASING AS OIL SUPPLIES INCREASING. LONG-RANGE PROSPECTS VIEWED RATHER OPTIMISTICALLY.

- 1. RESPONDING TO PRESSURES FROM FARM QUARTERS FOR OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON FUEL DISTRIBUTION POLICY, AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF TRADE STARIBACHER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ADEQUATE FUEL SUPPLIES WILL BE SET ASIDE FOR AGRICULTURE TO ASSURE UNHAMPERED 1974 SPRING PLANTING AND HARVESTING OPERATIONS.
- 2. SUPPLY HEAVY RESIDUAL FUELS TO WESTERN AUSTRIAN TEXTILE MILLS LARGELY NORMALIZED WITH FOREIGN DELIVERIES PICKING UP AGAIN AND AUSTRIAN OIL ADMINISTRATION NOW ABLE TO MEET ANY RESIDUAL REQUIREMENTS.

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3. APPRECIABLE INCREASES IN PRICES FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MAY

TAKE EFFECT SHORTLY. INTHIS CONTEXT AGRICULTURE DEMANDS HIGHER COMPENSATION RATES UNDER EXISTING SCHEME PROVIDING FOR PARTIAL FUEL COST REFUNDS TO FARMERS. HIGH-LEVEL TALKS ON THIS SCHEDULED FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

4. MOTOR FUEL SUPPLY JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1974 CURRENTLY SEEN UNCRITICAL AND LONGER-RANGE PROSPECTS VIEWED WITH CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM. HOWEVER, GOA STANDS READY TO INAUGURATE RATIONING SCHEME SHOULD UNFORSEEN FUEL SHORTAGES DEVELOP. HUMES

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